AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A navigation apparatus ~~of~~ for guiding a vehicle to a destination, comprising:

a destination setting section ~~of setting~~ that sets a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving section ~~of deriving~~ that derives a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining section ~~of obtaining~~ that obtains a path from the current location derived by ~~the~~ said location deriving section as a starting point to the destination set by ~~the~~ said destination setting section;

a data storing section ~~of storing~~ that stores an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver;

a point guidance data generating section ~~of generating~~ that generates point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by said ~~the~~ location deriving section, the path obtained by ~~the~~ said path obtaining section, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in ~~the~~ said data storing section; and

an output section ~~of outputting~~ that outputs the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by ~~the~~ said point guidance data generating section ~~Section~~,

wherein ~~the~~ said point guidance data generating section compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set stored in said ~~the~~ data storing section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data.

2. (Currently Amended) The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a travel burden point selecting section ~~of selecting~~ that selects an information set of a

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travel burden point present within a predetermined range from the current location derived from ~~the~~ said location deriving section, from ~~the~~ said data storing section, based on the path obtained by ~~the~~ said path obtaining section and the current location,

wherein the point guidance data generating section generates point guidance data based on the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The navigation apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ said point guidance data generating section compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set selected by ~~the~~ said travel burden point selecting section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said output section outputs a voice in accordance with the point guidance data generated by ~~the~~ said point guidance data generating section.

5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Currently Amended)** The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the travel burden point is represented by any one of a bridge, an entrance of a tunnel, a grade crossing, an entrance point of an elevated road, a point where a road width suddenly becomes narrower, an entrance of a mountain road, an intersection where a road on which the vehicle is traveling intersects a road having a broader road width, an entrance of a shopping street, a point where a shrine gate is present, a point where a sign board or a road sign indicating that a destination is present in a direction different from a travel direction of a vehicle, and an entrance/exit of a parking lot.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A guidance method ~~which is performed in~~ for a navigation apparatus and ~~is~~ for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein

the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section of storing an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,

the method comprising:

a ~~destination setting step of~~ setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a ~~location deriving step of~~ deriving a current location of the vehicle;

a ~~path obtaining step of~~ obtaining a path from the current location derived ~~by the location deriving step~~ as a starting point to the destination set ~~by the destination setting step~~;

a ~~point guidance data generating step of~~ generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived ~~by the location-deriving step~~, the path obtained ~~by the path obtaining step~~, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section; and

an ~~output step of~~ outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated ~~by the point guidance data generating step~~,

wherein the <u>generation of the</u> point guidance data ~~generating~~ <u>step</u> <u>includes comparing</u> ~~compares~~ a reference hesitation value contained in the information set stored in the data storing section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, ~~generates~~ <u>generating</u> point guidance data.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program <u>stored on a computer-readable medium</u> which is ~~performed~~ <u>executed</u> in a navigation apparatus and is for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein

the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section of storing an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a reference

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hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,

the computer program comprising:

a destination setting step of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving step of deriving a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining step of obtaining a path from the current location derived by the location deriving step as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting step;

a point guidance data generating step of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving step, the path obtained by the path obtaining step, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section; and

an output step of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating step,

wherein the point guidance data generating step compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set stored in the data storing section with a driver characteristic value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Currently Amended)** A navigation apparatus ~~of~~ for guiding a vehicle to a destination, comprising:

a destination setting section that sets ~~of setting~~ a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving section ~~of deriving~~ that derives a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining section ~~of obtaining~~ that obtains a path from the current location derived by ~~the~~ said location deriving section as a starting point to the destination set by said ~~the~~ destination setting section;

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a calculation section that calculates ~~of calculating~~ a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through a travel burden point on a road network after ~~the~~ said path obtaining section obtains the path;

a data storing section that stores ~~of storing~~ an information set including at least the reference hesitation value calculated by said ~~the~~ calculation section of the travel burden point, location information for identifying a location of the travel burden point, and link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver;

a point guidance data generating section that generates ~~of generating~~ point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by said ~~the~~ location deriving section, the path obtained by ~~the~~ said path obtaining section, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in said ~~the~~ data storing section; and

an output section that outputs ~~of outputting~~ the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by ~~the~~ said point guidance data generating section.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A guidance method ~~which is performed in~~ for a navigation apparatus and ~~is~~ for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein

the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section of storing at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,

the method comprising:

~~a destination setting step of~~ setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

~~a location deriving step of~~ deriving a current location of the vehicle;

~~a path obtaining step of~~ obtaining a path from the current location derived ~~by the location deriving step~~ as a starting point to the destination set ~~by the destination setting step~~;

~~a calculation step of~~ calculating a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of

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a driver's hesitation to go through a travel burden point on a road network after the path obtaining section obtains the path;

~~a data storing step of~~ storing at least the reference hesitation value of the travel burden point calculated ~~by the calculation step~~;

~~a point guidance data generating step of~~ generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived ~~by the location deriving step~~, the path obtained ~~by the path obtaining step~~, the reference hesitation value stored ~~by the data storing step~~, and location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to a travel burden point, and a characteristic value of a driver, which are stored in the data storing section; and

~~an output step of~~ outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated ~~by the point guidance data generating step~~.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program <u>stored on a computer-readable medium</u> which is ~~performed~~ <u>executed</u> in a navigation apparatus and is for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein

the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section of storing at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,

the computer program comprising:

a destination setting step of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving step of deriving a current location of the vehicle;

a path obtaining step of obtaining a path from the current location derived by the location deriving step as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting step;

a calculation step of calculating a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through a travel burden point on a road network after the path

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obtaining section obtains the path;

a data storing step of storing at least the reference hesitation value of the travel burden point calculated by the calculation step;

a point guidance data generating step of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving step, the path obtained by the path obtaining step, the reference hesitation value stored by the data storing step, and location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to a travel burden point, and a characteristic value of a driver, which are stored in the data storing section; and

an output step of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating step.

13. **(Canceled)**